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Securities & Exchange Commission Division of Corporate Finance Room 3094 (3-6), 450 Fifth Street Washington D.C. 20549 USA

1 July 2005



**Company Secretariat** 

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Incorporated by Royal Charter with limited liability Company number Z73

82-2083

Dear Sirs

## P&O SELLS STAKE IN ROYAL P&O NEDLLOYD

I enclose a copy of a press release sent to the London Stock Exchange in accordance with our 12g3-2(h) exemption from the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in connection with our ADR program.

Yours faithfully

Sylvia Freeman

**Company Secretariat** 

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## News Release

29 June 2005

## P&O SELLS ITS STAKE IN ROYAL P&O NEDLLOYD

P&O announces that it has entered into an agreement today to sell its entire 25% shareholding in Royal P&O Nedlloyd N.V. to two financial institutions, which are acting on behalf of AP Moeller-Maersk, at a price of €56.25 per share in cash. The total proceeds from the disposal will be €571 million (£378 million).

P&O expects to record a profit on sale, under International Financial Reporting Standards, of approximately £175 million. Settlement is due to occur on 30 June.

Further information:

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## Notes to editors:

- Royal P&O Nedlloyd N.V. owns P&O Nedlloyd which is one of the world's top
  four shipping container lines. P&O has owned 10.16 million shares in Royal P&O
  Nedlloyd N.V., representing 25% of the company's issued share capital, since 16
  April 2004 when the reverse listing of P&O Nedlloyd was completed.
- 2. AP Moeller-Maersk has previously made a conditional offer at €57 per share to acquire all the issued share capital of Royal P&O Nedlloyd N.V. The offer is open until 4 August 2005 and is subject to, inter alia, approval from regulatory bodies in Europe and the United States.